



U.S. Department of Justice

**Craig S. Morford
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Shannon Bass (313) 226-9530

February 15, 2005

EVENT: Guilty Verdict

DEFENDANT : Surinderpal Singh,31, of Brampton, Ontario, Canada

Canadian Trash Hauler Convicted of Importing Marijuana

On February 14, 2005, a federal jury convicted Surinderpal Singh, 31, of Brampton, Ontario, on felony drug charges for his role in importing nearly a ton of marijuana into the United States from Canada.

The trial began on February 8, 2005 before U.S. District Judge George Steeh. The evidence established that the defendant on November 6, 2004 was driving a commercial trash hauler with trash from the Toronto, Ontario area, destined for the Carlton Farms landfill in southern Wayne County. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Inspectors found 1,852 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$5.5 million. The marijuana was in 1,573 individually wrapped packages inside 35 "hockey bags".

The case was investigated by agents from United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Assistant U.S. Attorney who prosecuted the case was Karl Overman.

